

7-2
Men Who Enjoy Being Women

Reference

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Transmissions

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Dear Reader.....

Well, summer is over and we should be very happy as this is the first summer in recent history where we can honestly say that we actually had "Summer" weather. We should be thankful for the events that were held over summer that enabled people a chance to get out in their summer frocks. While I'm on the topic of "Being Thankful", I need to again remind the members of "Illusions", particularly those that are close to Calgary, they have a unique situation available to them. People are constantly commenting to us, "How lucky members were that could utilize the facilities", or "How I wish I was able to come to **Illusions** more often", or "I live in the U.S.A. and we have nothing like this where I live!"

Sometimes when people have something already in place it is often taken for granted! A few people remember what it was like before "**Illusions**" and these people keep this club going! The next time you are getting ready to go out, whether to "**Illusions**" or out on the town, think back to where you would be if there was never an "**Illusions**", or how much the friendship and camaraderie that you have developed through "**Illusions**" means to you, or how important "**Illusions**" will be for those that have yet to venture from the closet, and how important it is to keep "**Illusions**" a vibrant entity.

If any of this applies to you.....think what you can do to help take some of the load off of those that have been keeping "**Illusions**" vibrant. After years of a few of us working for the membership, maybe the membership should start working more for themselves and for the good of the club!

It truly would be a shame if those few said, "I'm tired of being taken advantage of and I'm tired of doing all the work for everyone else. Why should I bother?" So far I've been able to convince myself and others that this is a noble cause and worth doing, hopefully that will always remain true! **Can you afford to take that chance?**

In Vitality and Volunteering

Love..... Barbie & Christine



Gay Lines

(403)

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Illusions Calendar

CALGARY

RED DEER

EDITORS: BARBIE, CHRISTINE & LISA

Sept. 14 - Welcome Back Social
Sept. 26 - Regular Social
Sept. 28 - Dr. Menard (SRS)
Oct. 12 - TBA Social
Oct. 31 - Halloween
Oct. 26 - Bizarre Ball - Halloween
Nov. 16 - TBA Social
Nov. 28 - TBA Social
Dec. 14 - Christmas Social

Socials: Every Last Saturday of the Month at "The Other Place Bar". The address is Bay 3 & 4 5579-47 St. Red Deer, Alberta. Call (403) 342-6440 for details.

REMEMBER:

Attendance to Illusions Calgary and Edmonton functions require that you be a member or invited guest, of either Illusions or an Illusions member. For location information, or other details about who we are call:

(403) 236-7072 Calgary
(403) 486-9661 Edmonton

EDMONTON

Sept. 12 - Psychologist
Sept. 21 - Scavenger Hunt
Oct. 10 - TBA Social
Oct. 19 - TBA Social
Nov. 14 - TBA Social
Nov. ? - TBA Social

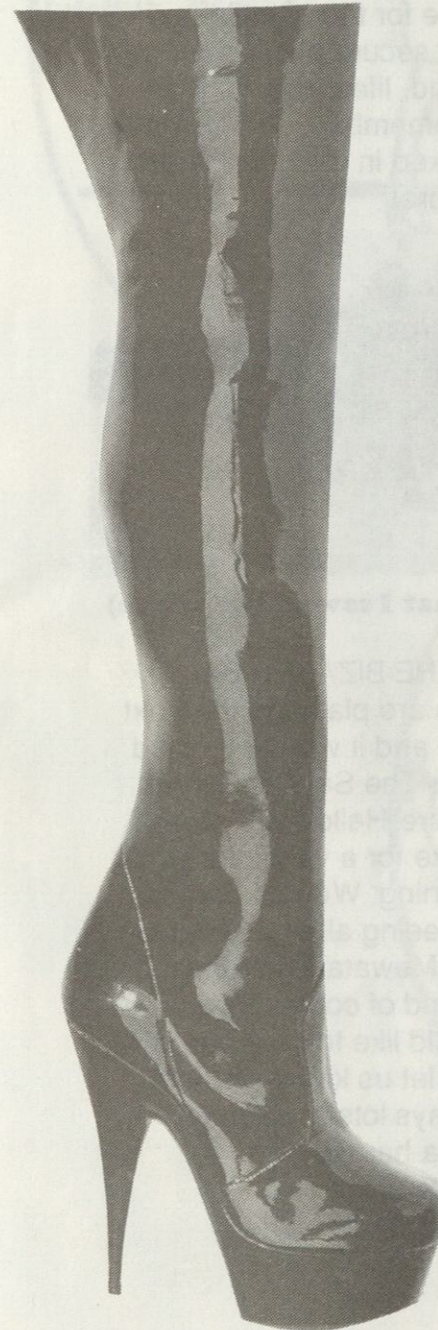
For Illusions Edmonton information call either 486-9661 or 488-3234 leave a message for Roxanne or Rachel

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HOT SUMMER!!!!

CONTENTS

**Illusions Magazine
Volume 7 Issue 2**



- 4 *Blah Blah Blah*
- 5 *"Stitches" TV Cartoon*
- 6 *Crossdresser Manifesto*
- 8 *TV/TS Letters*
- 11 *Making Beautiful Eyes*
- 14 *Throne Speech*
- 16 *Meet MS. Gay Calgary*
- 18 *Transvestism Serial*
- 20 *Meet the TV Girls of Summer*
- 22 *TV girls in the north*
- 23 *Interview with a 'Difference'*
- 27 *The Ladies of Illusions*
- 37 *Free Personal Ads*

Letter from the Editor

Blah, Blah, Blah



Welcome back from summer holidays. It was different for us this year..as we didn't close the shop in August..and go figure..it was a warm one!

Now that we are all back to routines etc...its a good time to look at our goals for the fall season.

This magazine will continue to grow and expand...and don't forget to help us out...all of your experiences are needed for other people to learn from.

With this column in particular..there has been an editor's debate as to the direction of my articles. Should my article/column be enlightning, positive and generally upbeat or should I get right at some issue that are really bugging me and tear them apart?

In simple terms..get BITCHY!

My vote is that most positive feed back can be fairly fluffy and "skirts" the real issues... while viewpoints that can ruffle feathers that may even seem to point fingers at you..YES YOU.... are

meant to always analyze our situations in a constructive manner.

So with these nice words of warning..lets jump into some issues.

1. New Fall Gals:

The pre winter season is around the corner and we do see more gals creeping out of the closets..ever so cautiously.Lets not scare them. Lets try to always remember how it felt to "come out" ourselves. Its a very intimidating and overloading time for these new gals. The wives in tow also need to be welcomed into the group with alot of understanding and patience. Lets not forget our manners. Some of these wives are trying very hard to be supportive and we need to make an effort to help them feel at home too. So with that thought in mind.. dragging new members and significant others off to a gay bar may seem novel to you...keep in mind that it can also be overwhelming for these new gals. There are alot of fish in the sea..and to some..fresh meat is what they are only hunting for.

Some people love to prey on the weaknesses of others, so watch over our new members like sisters. Care for them until they feel secure about their new found lifestyle.

Remember.... YOU.. have walked in their footsteps before!



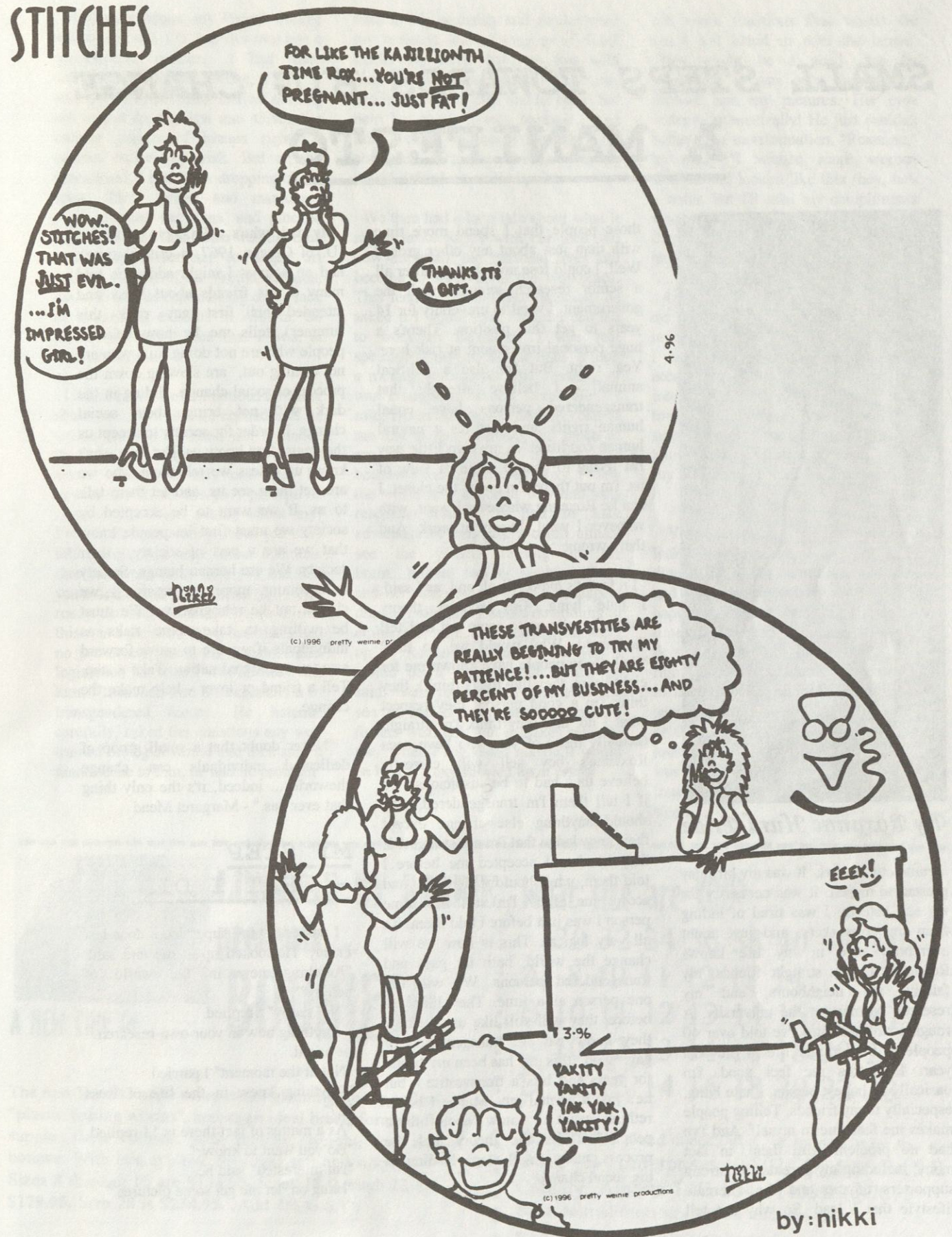
(what I saw at the beach)

2. THE BIZARRE BALL!!

We are planning the next Ball and it will be a good one. The Saturday night before Halloween should make for a very interesting evening. We look forward to seeing all of you out at the Mewata Armouries.and of course if you would like to be a part of it, just let us know.. there's always lots of room for extra hands.

Lots of love
Barbie

STITCHES



by: nikki

SMALL STEPS TOWARDS BIG CHANGE

A MANIFESTO



By Roxanne Hurd-Pride

those people that I spend more time with than just about any other group? Well, I could lose my job, I am after all a senior research scientist with the government. I went to university for 14 years to get this position. There's a huge personal investment at risk here. Yea, right. But I'm also a political animal - I believe strongly that transgendered persons have equal human rights, and that it's a natural human condition. In my own little way I'm trying to change society's view of us. I'm out there, I'm out of the closet, I can be Roxanne whenever I want, with whoever I want. Except at work. And that's wrong.

In fact it's hypocritical, and, as I said, I hate lying. Gay activist theory currently tells us to come out and tell the world. Why would we do this? Well, these people have known me for eight years, they like me (I think), they think I'm a good person, they respect what I do, and they think I'm straight (actually those of you who have seen Roxanne's boy self will correctly believe they had to be suspicious). So if I tell them I'm transgendered, why should anything else change except their knowledge that I'm not straight? If they liked and accepted me before I told them, why shouldn't they like and accept me after? I'm still the same person I was just before I told them. It's all very logical. This is how we will change the world, both for gays and transgendered persons. We will tell one person at a time. They liked us before, they will still like us, but now they know we are transgendered or gay. "God, this guy has been my friend for years and he's a transvestite - but he's just a normal guy. Maybe I better rethink what I know about these people." That's the theory and the process, many small steps leading to big social change.

I came out at work. It was my birthday present to myself. It was necessary for my self esteem. I was tired of hiding from my co-workers, and just about everybody else in my life knows Roxanne: all my straight friends, my family, my neighbours, and my research partners at the university. A rough count indicates I've told over 40 people in my straight life in the past year. It makes me feel good. I'm basically an honest person, I hate lying, especially to my friends. Telling people makes me feel true to myself. And I've had no problem with them, in fact many, including my parents, are strong supporters of me and the alternate lifestyle that I lead. So why not tell

My dad, who's a Ph.D. in education (U. of Oregon 1967, a critical time), and an activist I might add (he's told many of his friends about Roxy and attended his first gay rally this summer), tells me he now believes people who are not doing this, who are not coming out, are slowing down the process of social change. Hiding in the dark will not bring about social change. In order for society to accept us they must first know us. But they won't know us unless we tell them who we are, let them see us, and let them talk to us. If we want to be accepted by society we must first let people know that we are a part of society - their society. We are human beings. Society is becoming more progressive - we should not be retrogressive. We must be willing to take some risks as individuals if we are to move forward as a transgendered nation. Take a step. Tell a friend or lover - help make the change.

"Never doubt that a small group of dedicated individuals can change the world ... indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

MY STEP - WHAT I DID

I passed by my supervisors door last Friday. He looked up at me and said, "Anything new in the world of botany?" "Not really" I replied. "Anything new in your own research?" he asked. "Not at the moment" I parried. "Anything knew in the life of Ross H.?" "As a matter of fact there is," I replied, "Do you want to know?" "I'm interested" said he. "Hang on, let me get some pictures."

And so it began, my formal coming out to my boss. Oh, but this was not a spontaneous moment. I had been working on it for some time, a year. It was probably my most critical coming out except for the first one. Given the current paucity of human rights- it seemed to be high risk. But on the other hand, I had been dropping clues: long, shiny, gelled and manicured nails, pierced ear rings, and plucked eyebrows. And then there was the time I took my supervisor to a gay art gallery, the day of the Vreind decision, because he was complaining of the lack of interesting exhibits in Alberta. So people had some idea that I was, at least, different.

I asked him if he had noticed anything about me. To which he replied that he would have to be blind not to notice the physical changes! How long I asked. Almost exactly one year he answered. Ok, so this guys perceptive. Anyone else been asking about me? Everyone's been asking about you but I told them it was none of our business, that you were doing your job and that you'd tell us if and when you were ready. So after the initial rundown that this was a personal thing and that I had no protection under the human rights legislation for what I was about to tell him, I launched into an explanation of transgendered theory. He listened carefully, asked the questions any well trained biologist would and then said it made sense to him, he had no problem

with it. My sexuality and gender were my business and as long as it didn't hinder my work that was fine with him. In fact, he noted, that I had just had my best year ever and he could not help but think it was because I had finally come to accept Roxanne. He also said if anyone hassled me he would defend me on that point.

We then had a long talk about what it meant to be happy with our jobs and how important our personal lives had become to survival in the workplace. This lead to the ultimate question: he asked if I would ever consider coming to work as Roxanne? I was just speechless, my jaw hit the floor. It took a moment to recover; my dream goal was being laid on the table. Well, I said, it certainly would be important to me and in fact I already did much of my writing at home as Roxanne because I feel different as Roxy, I view the world in a different way and as a research scientist I had to take advantage of that gift. I could almost see the wheels turning in his brain....hmmm, two for the price of one and all with one person - a managers dream! I told him I would do nothing to embarrass him, such as just showing up as Roxanne someday, but yes it would be a consideration. Then he said, "well you just tell people as you see fit and if you want to pursue it further we'll talk, but it makes sense to me." Then I suggested maybe it would be best if Roxy showed up at one of

our social functions first where she could just blend in with the crowd. "That might be a good idea he suggested" It was only then that I showed him my pictures. His eyes widened dramatically! He just couldn't believe the transformation. "Roxanne," he said, "I wished more women dressed and looked like this (hey, he's a sexist but I'll take my compliments where I can!). I laughed but I was thinking, "no dear, I wish more of the guys would dress and look like this!"

Anyway, now I'm out at work, but not out of work. What a relief! I've started my assault on my last major barrier, as I currently see it, to full social acceptance. I no longer fear losing my job when, and if, some adversary tries to out me. Having my supervisor on my side just makes me feel great. Hey, he knows and he accepts it. Hell, I dare say I think he's even a bit fascinated by it.

Yes, I am lucky; but I am not *just* lucky. Remember it took a lot more than the luck of having an educated and liberal supervisor for this to happen. I thought about this for a long time. I practiced on some 40 other people. And when the moment was right I had the courage to take the risk; to take a chance in order to effect a positive change in my life. It was one of the many small steps that we all must take; each step fulfilling in some way society's eventual acceptance of transgendered persons. Please, take a step.



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LETTERS

Dear Christine,

Thank-you very much for taking time out to write back to me regarding my letter to you.

When one has accepted ones self for the way they are, it is very easy to get carried away and lose touch with reality. The point you brought to light about getting my marriage on track before dealing with my identity, was excellent. Thanks for the reality check! You are really in touch with the issues pertaining to our lifestyle. It has also got me to slow down and pay closer attention to the outings and times that I plan to partake in.

I was thinking how embarrassing it would be to come out of a dressing room and run into family or friends. I was a shopaholic, going from store to store, browsing through all the racks, trying on different things and not paying close attention to my surroundings. I really hope that I was not caught in the act by somebody close.

I am a little worried though of a couple of family members, at two different times while generally talking about lingerie, they made comments in reference to me. I ignored them at the time but am thinking of finding out how much they know and how many were told.

I don't know if this is a good idea, but it is hard to be with others and not know how much they know about you or how the information will get around.

Thanks again, Darlene #362

Editors Note: If you pursue the course of finding out how much others know, be prepared for the worst! Make sure you are educated enough to answer any questions that come up pertaining to the lifestyle as you will surely have to either defend yourself or educate those you question. Sometimes it is better to leave well enough alone but on the other hand you could use their comments as an opening to discuss the lifestyle and perhaps gain some allies. Tough decision and only one that you can make as only you know your situation!

Dear Barbie,

I would like to thank all the girls in Edmonton that made our day so enjoyable on our visit there.

Catherine and myself (Joan) travelled to Edmonton in early July and spent the day with Joanne and Rachel. They took us shopping and then we went to West Edmonton Mall to see "Hooters", but we couldn't get in so we had a beer at another bar. After that we all went to Rachel's place to change for the evening. There we had a chance to see the birthday video taken at Illusions in Calgary, we enjoyed it a lot.

At about 8:30 pm or so we went out to Dixie's. There we met Dee Dee and Brent who also brought their wives, Shirley and Carline.

Dixie set out a nice lunch and we had a few drinks and a nice talk with all until just after midnight. Catherine and I headed for home and about 3:00 am we were home tired but happy.

We hope to do it again soon.

Love, Joan #284

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Dear Illusions Readers,

My reasons for writing are twofold. First, I recently had the pleasure to accompany a very important dear friend of mine to the Illusions club in Calgary. I want to sincerely applaud the wonderful support network that is much needed, and too unavailable for those not living in a larger city such as Calgary. Second, a personal letter I received following our weekend in Calgary touched me very deeply. Bev has a remarkable way with words and a mastery in expressing herself that I believe may be of benefit or inspiration to others who must travel in order to participate in Illusions social functions. And so, with permission, I would like to share an excerpt from the letter I received.

Corinne..... Edmonton

May, 1996

I just got out of bed and am feeling a little on the dopey side. Sleep was difficult last night, as I had an overloaded mind to deal with. Flash pictures of the weekend and strong current of emotion were creating some pretty stormy seas between my ears. In retrospect, I handled it all with two exceptions..... The second one wasn't as easy to deal with, as it really caught me off guard.

It was after we gassed up the car at the edge of town. I was feeling all right on the way back to the car until I stopped for a moment and looked to the west at the city I was about to put behind me. Then it hit me like a train! I could see the downtown area off in the distance, as time slowed to a near stop I picked out the Calgary Tower with the quiet unyielding backdrop of the mountains behind it. A voice in my head spoke clearly and calmly to me and told me to feel the breeze on my face and acknowledge the real and tangible ground beneath my feet. My eyes, which were starting to fill with tears drank in the greenness of the hills around the city that harbours so many others like myself in its warm and open arms.

The voice spoke to me again, soft yet determined, and she said, "Feel it. Feel it all. You're here. This is were it is. For the last moment you are still here in the place that can make you feel life in the way others do." At that moment my inner being absorbed the real and rich warmth of the sunlight, rose on the breeze and enveloped and hugged the city where I could be born again to truly live with the same open and conscious contact that others do. The sensation was still roaring through me when somehow, I managed ti hear a car door slam.

.....Away, and back to a world of hollow gestures, where I must pay constant penance to my gods of biology and allegiances, leaving nothing behind but tattered bits of my ragged and unravelling soul, dancing on the spring breeze as I drive away... I'm back here now, but a piece of me will always be standing vigil at that gas station, looking eastward for my return.

Bev

Sexual Reassignment Surgery

by
Dr. Yvon Menard, M.D. - FRCSC, Plastic Surgeon
Dr. Pierre Brassard, M.D. - FRCSC, Plastic Surgeon

I am pleased to announce the **Confirmation** of the visit of **Dr. Yvon Menard** for the upcoming seminar on Gender Reassignment Surgery, I received Dr. Menard's letter of confirmation September 4, 1996.

This presentation will deal with both Male to Female and Female to Male surgery techniques. the presentation will consist of a slide show and then a question period.

The date for this event is **Saturday, September 28, 1996 at 7:00 pm**. The venue will be at B&B Leatherworks, entrance through the backdoor. There will be a \$5.00 door charge to help defray some of the costs for providing this seminar.

This seminar will be a **NON-SMOKING** and **NO DRINKING** event.

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Time for Christine

A special story of a TS journey and you can be part of it!

By Lisa

Half a life living as a man, acting as a man. She played the part well, a party-guy, being part of a biker gang, bar-tending in the toughest hotel in town, driving a camper bus across the US, meeting girls, owning a farm, riding bulls in rodeo, becoming an award winning salesman, a husband, father, baseball coach and business owner.

The play is over for this actress though. She lived her life to please others and closet herself. Now it's her time.

On stage is Illusions co-founder and inspiration Christine. She is nearing the end of a journey that is taking her from male to female. If you have been at Illusions in the past year you would have noticed how Bryan gradually became Christine, with her beard disappearing, longer hair, longer nails and new voice. The process has been steady but not easy.

Christine's knowledge and commitment to transgenderism is an illumination to others on the same path, and an education to those who don't understand. Not to go unnoticed, Christine's journey is being recorded for a 60 minute television documentary. The show's producer is myself. The program is currently in the selling stages to Canadian, US and International broadcasters. Video release through sales from transgender organisations like Illusions will follow.

So far dozens of hours in footage have been shot. Yet I want to obtain more. As Christine created Illusions, I am hi-lighting the club into the program. This fall I plan to attend an Illusions social with camera and sound-person to record the atmosphere of the club and its

people. Now I imagine this will not fall into favour of some of you because you worry of exposure. I see your point. You have a life to live outside of the club and I won't be the one to interfere with that.

My self-imposed rule is: *I will not videotape any Illusions member or guest who requests not to be on camera.* Your request is important to me since I am an Illusions member and friend. I will not break the discretion you have expected from Illusions.

As for those of you who will allow me to put you on camera, I thank you. Please have fun like you usually do and ignore my presence. That's easy eh? At some point I may ask you on camera what you think of Illusions and Christine's contribution. Should you further allow me.

For those of you on the fence about this issue, I've got to remind you that the advantage of drag is a certain amount of anonymity. For

example, I have recently brought some of my crew onto the premises of Illusions. There are photos of me scattered around the club and on magazines but yet I haven't had a question of. "...heh, isn't that picture of Empress IV Lisa, you?" Sooner or later they'll figure it out, in the meanwhile I giggle to myself.

My next argument is that having a strong TV/TS presence in this documentary will help educate others in the world that we are proud of who we are and that coming out and enjoying yourself is not a sin. Finally, think of being in the program as a tribute and thanks to Christine for the numerous hours, sweat and tears she's sacrificed for us to have and maintain this wonderful club.

See you in the movies.

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By Teri

Makeup instructions for women seldom work for men, because their faces are different. In particular, men often have deep-set eyes with lower eyebrows. I certainly do, and this article explains how to correct this problem. A lot of it is based on what Calgary's premier make-up artist (and Illusions member) Ty Morgan taught me, with a few other goodies I've picked up along the way thrown in for good measure. If your eyes are deep set like mine, perhaps there is something you can glean from it, too.

Basically, there are six steps I will talk about. These are: clearing space to put make-up; brows; contouring; lashes; accenting; and avoiding making a mess of the rest of your face. Besides a couple of brushes narrow enough to draw lines and work in small areas, you will need at least four eyeshadows (a light, a medium, a dark, and a very dark like black or dark brown), a whitish highlighting powder, an eyebrow pencil (black or dark brown), false lashes and lash glue (see below for details) and mascara.

THOSE EYES

POP

Avoiding a mess: Taking the last thing first, the law of gravity and Murphy's law mean that you risk ending up with dark brown or black streaks down your carefully applied foundation if you don't take precautions. Try dabbing a bunch of loose powder under your eyes before starting. That way any dark particles will have nothing to stick to. To get rid of this excess powder when you're done, use a squeeze blower like the ones photo stores sell to get dust off your camera lens. Then use a few light strokes with a Q-Tip, and then finally a few light strokes with a brush.

Clearing space: Years ago I found some detailed articles on how to apply eye make-up. Unfortunately, my joy was short-lived as I realized they were saying to put the stuff in spots I didn't have. If your eyes are deep set like mine, you have basically two choices. One is to clear some space by raising the bottom of your eyebrows and the other is to make it look like you have done that.

The best way to clear space is to tweeze. I carry this to extremes, clearing all but the very top ridge of my brows. I can get away with this because I wear glasses and am fair-haired, so people don't expect to see heavy brows (look carefully at actor Robert Duvall sometime--the guy's brows are almost invisible). If you don't feel comfortable going that far, try just clearing out the "strays" below the main line of your brow. Often this will give you enough space to work with. If not, you can try to increase the amount of space by giving yourself a temporary facelift.

Hold your fingers at roughly the hairline right above the outside corners of your eyes and push up. See how this increases the area available beneath your brows? You can't go around holding them up all night, but if your hairline is receding you can usually hold them up with clear surgical tape. If your hairline isn't receding, it's tougher, but I have seen a device made of round black elastic that fits around the head with two tabs to which the tape could be attached (simple when you see it).

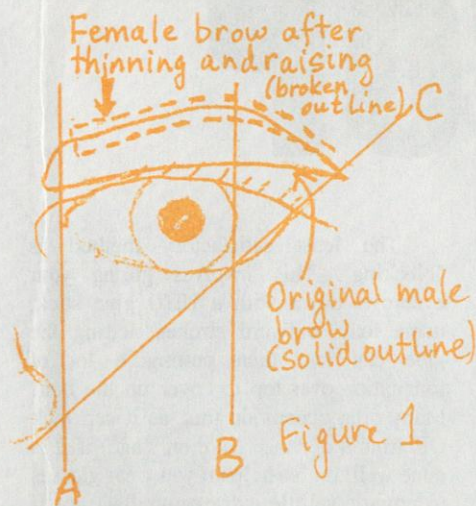
The least satisfactory method is "blocking". This involves gluing your eyebrows down with a UHU glue stick, using long, outward strokes, letting the glue dry and then putting a lot of foundation over top to cover up the hair. Many drag queens do this, as it can look OK from a distance (like on stage) if it is done well. It also helps if you wear glasses to provide a little extra camouflage, or if you have at least tweezed out the longest, stiffest hairs, so the other ones will lie flat. However, if you're aiming for realism, blocking should be considered a last resort.

Whatever you do to your eyes, be sure to put a light covering of foundation on the entire eye area when doing the rest of your face. This is essential to get an even look and also to get the eyeshadow to stick and stand out better.

Brows: There are two important points here: shape, and the material used to create or enhance them.

If you look at models, you will see that a wide variety of shapes are fashionable. You are probably best to avoid some of the very heavy brows a few young models and actresses like Kathy Ireland or Margaux Hemingway wear, though. Their faces look feminine enough to carry that off, yours probably doesn't. Also to be avoided is the skinny, pencil-thin look, unless you have a thing about looking like your mother. A medium thickness is best for most CDs, but you can play around with the exact shape. A few parameters to keep in mind can be traced out using a brush or ruler. Hold the brush straight up snug against the part of your nose that sticks out (line A in Fig. 1). That's about as far in as your brow should come. Now hold the brush with one end snug against the outside of your nostril and rotate it so that the other end touches the outside of your eye. Where that line cuts the line of your brow is about as far out as the brow should go (line C in Fig. 1). Now hold the brush straight up and down at the outside edge of your iris when you are looking straight ahead (line B in Fig. 1). That's about where the arch (highest point) should be.

Make Those Eyes POP!



The challenge is not to come up with a perfect brow; it's to come up with TWO reasonably nice brows that look alike. I find the easiest way to do this is to draw in both lightly so that you have roughly the same reference points, then complete one brow, leaving it a little thinner than you want. Then do the other brow, look at the two, and go back and forth filling in here and there to make them similar (they'll never be **exactly** the same, just do your best to even them out). Figure 1 gives you an idea of what you want to end up with as a brow.

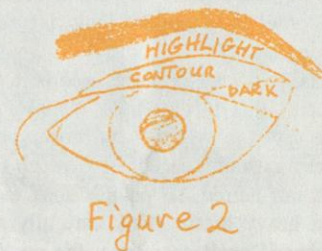
Now, you might be wondering what to use to do this. Or maybe you've already jumped to the conclusion that eyebrow pencil is what I'm talking about. Actually I never use eyebrow pencil on my brows. I use a reddish brown eyeshadow powder (MAC Swiss chocolate) to go with my red hair and a small angled brush (MAC #22, 1/4" wide; if their brushes are too expensive for you, at least you can see what shape it is). This gives a much softer appearance than pencil, has a less greasy look, and allows better control (use the brush edgewise).

Contouring: What you are trying to do with contouring is to give the illusion that the bone structure around your eye is different from what it actually is. To do this, you rely on the basic makeup principle that dark colours make things recede (look farther away), while light colours make them stand out. If your eye is deep set, what you want to do is make that ridge over your eyes look like it is gradually sloping inwards the way a feminine eye usually does. At the same time, you want to lay the foundation for the accenting that will come next by

drawing attention out to the outer corners of your eyes.

To make the top of the area under your brow look like it sticks out farther than the areas underneath, you need to highlight using a light (usually white) powder. For evening wear a product I find useful to help make this more noticeable is Revlon Colorstay Eyecolor in the pearl shade. This is a white, lipstick-like product that you can just dab on carefully right under the outside of the brow using your finger. Used sparingly, it adds just a touch of opalescence to the area. This can be brought out even more with a powder like MAC vellum eyeshadow (vellum is the colour). When turned to the light it has just a hint of reflectivity that gives it an ever-so-slight mauve tint.

Now start at the inner corner of your eye with a light colour, move to a medium colour in the middle, and then a darker colour at the outside. Then use that darker colour to draw in above your eye the arch that we all wish we had (see Figure 2). I start with a yellow in the inside, then a dusky coral in the middle, and finally an Ultima II reddish brown called "Earth" (remember, these colours are to match red hair only). A medium angle brush is best for this (e.g. MAC #19, 5/16" wide or similar)



Once this is done, you need to remember the three rules of makeup application: blend, blend, blend! Get a medium flat brush (e.g. MAC #18, 5/16" wide) and use several outward strokes to blend the colours together so that you do not see a clear edge between one and the other, or between them and the unoutlined areas.

Lashes: If your eyes are deep set, you should probably use false eyelashes. My natural eyelashes are quite long, but because my eyes are so deep set, they are almost invisible. Unless you are trying for a drag queen look, avoid the really long ones, though. I find Andrea #105 lashes are about the right length for me (available at London Drugs).

Before you put your lashes on, draw a thin line along the top of your upper eyelashes using an eyebrow pencil (this

relates to the next section, but you have to do it now). I use a MAC Chestnut pencil to do this, as I like the consistency of their pencils (hard enough to hold a point, soft enough not to pull the delicate skin under the eye).

Now, to the lashes themselves. Use the flat, broad end of a toothpick to apply just a little eyelash glue along the edge. Using as little as possible will allow you to recycle the lashes many times (a dozen or so uses is quite possible once you learn how to take care of them). After you put the first one on, note carefully where the inside of it ends when you close your eye. This will help you to get them on evenly, because the inside end of the lash (the part nearest your nose) will appear much further out when your eye is open.

Don't despair if you have a bit of trouble getting lashes on at first. I probably took an average of three tries per eye for the first 20 times I used them. Then one evening it suddenly "clicked" and I seldom have problems any more.

(At the end of the evening, make taking your lashes off carefully the first step in your makeup removal. Put them away carefully in the package they came in. Before you put them on again, carefully use your thumbnail to pull off the glue from the previous time to avoid build up.)

Accenting: Here your goal is to draw attention to the upper, outer corners of the eyes. You do this by lining your eyes and applying darker shadow at the upper, outside corners.

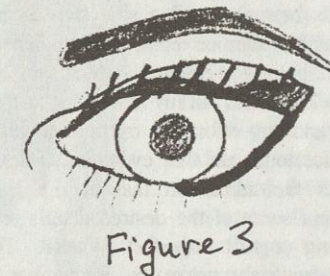
Before applying your lashes, you put a line along the eyelid just where your lashes come out. You should go over that now with your pencil. You want a nice dark line, but not one that is too wide. Be sure the line comes right into the inside corner of your eye (by your nose).

Next you need to highlight under the eye. This is where a lot of people (men and women alike) do themselves a disservice. Unless you have VERY large eyes (which you almost certainly don't if they're deep set and you're still reading this article), don't go all the way around when you pencil in underneath. Go from about half way (roughly under the pupil) to join up with your upper line at the outside corner. The smaller your eye, the further out you should start to avoid "closing in" your eye and getting that raccoon look.

Now, take your darkest eye colour (I use a very dark brown) and, using the same fine angle brush you used for your brows, go over the lines you just pencilled in. The powder will really stick to the oil in the pencil line, creating a very dramatic look.

Now take a soft, medium shade (I use the dusky coral I mentioned above) and go over the lines again. This softens them nicely so that you get a look that is dramatic but not harsh. If you are doing an evening look, you can accent even more dramatically. Take your darkest colour (in my case, the dark brown, but for many, black) and darken the area at the outside of the eye, above an imaginary line drawn to continue the upper edge of your lower eyelid (see Figure 2). Continue this about two-thirds of the way to your brow. Next, draw a line on your eyelid from above your pupil to the end of the line you just drew, and fill in the triangle. When you open your eye and look in the mirror, this should draw attention to the upper outside corner of your eye, creating an exotic, cat's-eye effect. Now take a medium brush like the one you used to apply your three colours of eyeshadow. Brush it in the darkest colour, then tap it until it has just

a bit of colour left on it and ever so lightly darken the remaining area covered by the darkest of the three shades you used. Blend using the technique described above. Then use the same colour you used to soften your eyelining powder to soften this darkened area and blend again. Now all you need is a little mascara to make your false lashes blend in with your own and you're done, gorgeous!



Conclusion: This may sound involved, but once you've done it a few times and you figure it out, it can be done in less than half an hour. You should never consider make-up time as "wasted". It's one of the most feminine things you can do, so enjoy! The results will be worth it. Just remember the six rules of successful cosmetic application: blend, blend, blend and practice, practice, practice!

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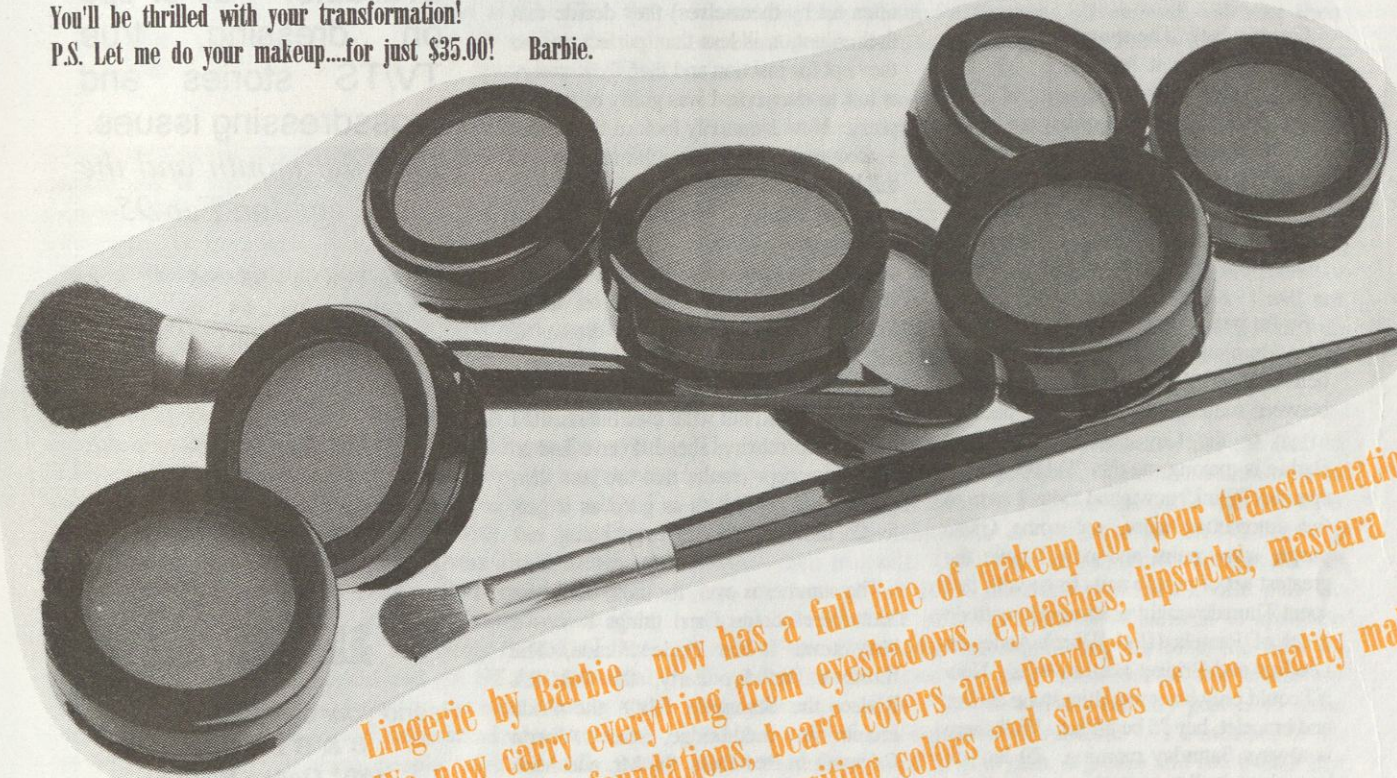
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THRONE SPEECH

Michelle Hart, "Illusions" Empress VI

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in line for it. Whaaa! I love Whaaa and I wouldn't be happy with out it! Then, problems that arise to complicate the worlds best plan and a side step to an acceptable solution comes next. Then there is my "Dream" which is to "Knock'em dead" in my new outfit at the Ball and my efforts to experiment and practice to create that eventuality. Next comes the admission that at the last moment some of the desired details are missing or still imperfect...Whaaa! I'll stay home right, not really. Remember, I said I'll let you know how it all turns out, ready or not I'm going to the Ball!

Too many people sit around....no let me rephrase that, too many people expend one kind of energy or another and then don't go with the results because (and often all by themselves) they decide that their situation is less than perfect and so they opt for inaction and then their energy is lost to everyone. I was guilty of this for years. Now I can only look in the mirror as I cover my wrinkles with make up and think about the years that I lost. If I have a message, I guess it is just to say that we all have wishes in life and we only have one life that we know of, so to achieve our wishes, we have to act on them. Whether or not I achieve my dreams is subject to the energy I am willing to apply to them. Sometimes things work out and other times not, but what ever the results I try to keep moving ahead. I have had to learn to accept results that are less than perfect and say "that's as good as it gets for the moment" it's time to get going.

The summer is over, for those that were "out there" doing Grrrl things it was a busy time. The Pride Parade, The Illusions Birthday Party, the ARGRA Rodeo, the Stampede BBQ, the Pride Picnic in Lethbridge, the Alberta Campout in Red Deer, the Mr. and Miss Gay Calgary Pageant, Illusions Girls of Summer Pageant and now bringing it all to a close the Gay Ball in Edmonton. So it can't be said that as CD's we have nothing to do. The choices are many. The winter events at Illusions will offer

new opportunities. So don't sit around waiting for the "perfect" moment because it may never come. Instead come out and get involved. Follow your dreams, really that's all that I'm doing.

Love, MICHELLE HART

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THRONE SPEECH

1st Princess VI

Rachel C.

I've now had a little over two months to get used to having the title of 1st Princess. It only struck me at the Coronation Ball weekend how significant having this title really is in the alternate lifestyle community of which we are a part. While serving drinks Friday, I had people from all over mention that they were at least aware of what Illusions was. Many prominent people in the gay community in Edmonton have stated to me on several occasions that we are held in high regard in part because of the work that we have done in the community, be it the renovations to the old GLCCE centre, the counselling that we do on Tuesdays at GLCCE, the work done by us on the GLCCE board or Roxy's and Stephanie's hard work with the Imperial Court (the ISCWR) here in Edmonton.

To be involved in what is, in essence, a new group on the scene and to be thought of so well by this community speaks volumes to me about the type of people that make up Illusions. To have been elected as 1st Princess of such a great group of people is really humbling.

I know that there are a lot of 'girls' out there who seem to be content in simply getting their magazine either in the mail or bought at a store every other month. Many of these 'girls' we never hear from or see at our socials or never even see out at the clubs. I know that even I was content for several years to simply buy the magazine every once in a while. I had always thought that while I shared the interest in crossdressing with the members, somehow I really wasn't like them. I was afraid somehow that if I joined, I would no longer be able to consider myself a "normal" person in society. It finally dawned on me after a long while that my reasoning was badly flawed. I then made the only decision I could and got off the proverbial couch and joined the club. I went to the next meeting and was almost in heaven. I couldn't understand why it took me so long. I found that these people were basically just ordinary people, like me, who happened to share a passion for wearing skirts, dresses and all the other clothes that women get to wear. Many of the girls I met in the club have since become very good friends of mine. I have never looked back or regretted my decision on that fateful day in October.

See Rachel on next page

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THRONE SPEECH

2nd Princess VI

Christine

Let me start by congratulating Michelle and Rachel. Michelle did an excellent job as Princess last year and I know she will do an even better job as our sixth Empress. Michelle works very hard for the club and I can not think of a more deserving person to wear the crown. I think is also great to have a Princess from Edmonton. Rachel is now in an excellent position to promote the clubs' actives in Edmonton and foster a greater level of cooperation and interaction between the Edmonton and Calgary members. I am honored to be able to serve as your 2nd Princess with these two wonderful people.

I would also like to thank the other contestants for caring enough about the club to run for Empress. I enjoyed watching their excellent performances and encourage them to try again next year.

I would also like to publicly thank Empress V Teri and 2nd Princess V Jacqui for the wonderful way they represented the club over the past year. Teri was an "outstanding" Empress in more ways than one.

Running for Empress was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed the opportunity to strut my stuff in front of such an appreciative audience. Since I was not chosen to be your Empress I will not have to carry out the promises I made in my Pink Book, but I do promise to do all I can to keep Illusions a fun, interesting and safe place for crossdresser of all persuasions.

There are some serious issues for crossdressers and the club to deal with such as gaining acceptance from the community at large. I think however the most important thing the club can do is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment for crossdressers to express their true self. Until such time as society accepts the fact that all men are not 100% masculine we need a safe place to express our feminine side. Since most of us need to spend so much of our time hiding and suppressing our feminine side, we should make the times we can "come out of the closet" as enjoyable as possible. That is why my primary goal is to make the club activities as enjoyable as possible. As a member of the social committee I will help to plan, organize and run events that we can all enjoy. If you have any ideas for activities please share them with myself or with other members of the social committee. Personally, I love to dress up in beautiful dresses and to entertain you with my lip-sync performances and would like nothing better than to become "Entertainer of the Year".

See Christine on next page

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Gabby Grabs Gay Glory

By Teri

On July 28, a dozen Illusions members attended Calgary's twelfth annual Mr. and Ms. Gay Calgary pageant at the Tasmanian Ballroom to see Mr. Gay XI Kevin and Ms. Gay XI Athena Ross step down in the presence of dignitaries from organizations across Western Canada.

Two factors led to a larger Illusions presence at this event this year. First, Illusions member P.J. Gabbystone was one of the two contestants vying for the title. P.J. is well known to club members for her flamboyant performances and willingness to share her hair styling expertise. She faced stiff competition from Anastasia, 2nd Lady of Colours and Crystals in the ISCCA (Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch), who is a familiar face to anyone who frequents the Midnight Café's weekly Saturday night drag shows. Tyler, the sole candidate for Mr. Gay and also an active ISCCA member who holds the title of 2nd Lord of Colours and Crystals, was put to a straight yes/no vote.

The second draw was that the Illusions royalty were honoured with an invitation to be among the dignitaries sitting on the dais during one of the sets. We were represented in this honour by Empress Michelle, Princess Christine, Gina and Teri.

After performances by the contestants, voting began, with the crowd well entertained by past title holders and other dignitaries. When the smoke cleared (well, alright, the smoke never really clears in those places, but you know what I mean), our own P.J. Gabbystone was crowned the Twelfth Ms. Gay Calgary, and Tyler got the nod as the Twelfth Mr. Gay Calgary. Congratulations to them both, and best wishes for a successful year!

Now, I wonder how long before this inspires someone to run for Miss Calgary, or at least Stampede Queen...

Rachel's Throne Speech from previous page

I know that it may seem like I have been rambling on in this article, but everything that I have written so far is to help get across to the readers an idea. This is especially for all those people that pick up the magazine and read the articles but never come out to our socials. For at least one night, I ask you, please put your fear away and come join us. You don't even have to wear women's clothing. You will find, as I did, that there is a terrific group of people out there who share your crossdressing desire. Many of these people would like the opportunity to help you become who you truly are inside. They want you to discover the joy, as they did, in being able to dress as a woman with NO fear of being ridiculed. You will be accepted for who and what you are and nothing more. I am positive you will glad you did this. I hope to see you 'girls' soon.

Christine's Throne Speech from previous page

Before I close there is one more very important thing I must do. I want to thank my beautiful and wonderful wife to encouraging me to join Illusions and for being there with me at special occasions. I want to thank her for helping me with my performances, and for performing with me from time to time. I want to thank her for sticking by me for 17 years, and for caring enough to try to understand my "strange" behavior. I know it has been hard for her to adjust to having a husband who wears dresses but she has done an admirable job of it. Let me also thank all the other wives and girl friends who have been understanding enough to "stand by their man" even when he is in a dress. Hopefully someday all people will be as open minded as these fine women.

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Who's New at Illusions

#432 Shirley Saskatchewan gal who hopes to make it out to Calgary. Crossdressing for over 40 years.

#433 Katrin A new Calgary member.

#434 Pam B.C. member hopes to have the club get her out of the closet.

#435 Paula Winnipeg is where this gal likes to shop. Especially the leather boutiques.

#436 Micheline Quebec gal looking for friends to shopping with.

#437 Charlene Central Alberta gal looking for tips to this unique lifestyle.

#438 Janine Ex - Toronto Wildside Club member, recently moved to Calgary. Hoping to meet lots of new friends.

#439 Joan Central Alberta gal, married and looking for friends.

#440 Amy Northern Alberta gal just coming out of the closet. Likes jazz and comedy.

#441 Cheryl New member from Calgary. Crossdressing for several years.

#442 Christina Recently out to wife and looking for more support.



"Hand-me-down clothing wouldn't be so bad if I had an older brother instead of a sister."

Making it Work for You

Illusions social club exists due to the hard work of the volunteers who clean, buy supplies and contribute to this magazine.

Please offer your help and suggestions to Christine and Barbie. Your help is appreciated by us all.

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Gay & Support Line



TRANVESTISM WITHIN A PARTNERSHIP OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES.

BY YVONNE SINCLAIR.

SECOND (REVISED) EDITION..... Continued from July Issue.

18 Do we discuss this with the children?

Only you know how your children will accept it. Most children would feel that they have been let down, and fear the ridicule of their friends. In their innocence they may discuss it with people outside of the family. We are all innocent until we become adults. They need to be taught the difference between right and wrong. You do not discuss your sexual activities with your children, nor the many difficulties of normal life.

There are two schools of thought concerning whether or not you should tell the children, and you must be the judge. The secrets of the bedroom are kept private, and you must decide whether your partner's dressing can also be kept a secret, or whether it should be. There is little to be gained by creating confusion about images in the minds of minors. There really is little to be gained in the children knowing; more often there is much to be lost. Self - respect, and respect from them will be lacking, because they will not have the foundation of normal parenthood. All children wish to look up to their parents; this habit is quite natural, and the male image is what they require from their father. To offer the knowledge of his transvestism to the children is often based not upon trust of them, but upon his greed to indulge a self - satisfying whim. Bear in mind that it will also inhibit *their* social life, inhibiting them from inviting friends to meet them at home, etc.

Let your children be the judge of what they want to talk about with you if they suspect or fear anything. They may not want their suspicions confirmed as fact, and they may not wish you to know that they are aware of the problems. You must accept that

they will not always see you as you would wish them to.

19 Is there anything I can do which will help him?

Your very willingness will help your partner in more ways than I can write. The simple knowledge that his fears that you would reject him are unfounded is perhaps the greatest help that you can offer. The rest is a matter of using your own female judgement in helping him to create a better image for himself.

Transvestites have very limited knowledge of fashion, or what suits them; they are drawn to the 'tarty' image in most cases. As the shops which cater for them tend to stock the more 'fetish' styles of clothing, he is likely to use those clothes as a means to excite himself, rather than emulating an 'everyday' female. Many transvestites who live alone do, through constant dressing, produce a nearer image of the everyday woman; they have plenty of time and privacy to practice the art.

Often, the transvestite thought that marriage would act as a 'cure', and that he would have no further desire to dress. We all believe that this can happen, and it can with a small minority, but it is more likely that the urge will return after a short while, and he might build up a secret store of clothes, fearing to use yours because of the danger of discovery. It may shock you when you see some of the things he has; but these will be the type of clothes that excite him most, and he will use them in the attempt to get the compulsion out of his system. Your help will be invaluable in helping him to create a better image; buying clothing which might present him in a better light. Advice on makeup -- for instance, eye shadow; most transvestites use it like paint, giving themselves "two lovely black

eyes' rather than helping them look feminine!

Like a child with a new toy he will doubtless want to dress as often as he can in the early days, but after a period of time he will find a level that is acceptable to you both. With the knowledge that there are other areas where he can be dressed openly, and meet others, he will prefer to do this rather than just dressing at home. Instead of just getting dressed, he is getting dressed for a reason, which itself becomes the therapy to overcome the manic compulsion and get back to the mainstream of life. This, with your help, can only improve your relationship.

20 If I agree to allow him to dress as a woman, will he want to do it more?

Certainly, now that it is out in the open, he will treat it as a new toy and play with it for as long as it gives him pleasure. His new found freedom of expression will be demanding at first; but you are free to say that you are bored with him constantly wanting to put on a frock. State your points calmly, but let your feelings be known. You will find that your points are noted and acted upon. After years of frustration he will not want to lose ground, or the opportunities he now enjoys. Sense will prevail, and adjustments will be needed as to when, and how often, it is agreeable for him to dress. It can be very boring - or very enjoyable.

Owing to your circumstances you might not be able to allow him to indulge as often as he would like. There are ways around this; for example, one does not always have to dress fully to enjoy transvestism. Or, by attending a transvestite social group he can dress for a reason; you in turn can enjoy part of the social life that does exist for transvestites. Visiting

transvestite groups, or other individuals, can bring many new friendships, often outside transvestism. You will also find that his own attitudes can change for the better; a re-awakening of other interests is often the case. The fact that he no longer fears that you will discover his transvestism will often lead to a better relationship.

It is also very noticeable that when the transvestite is meeting others, dressing in isolation becomes dull, and the urgency to dress diminishes. He will tend to dress instead for these social occasions, and get back into the mainstream of life and other social activities from which he has withdrawn. It appears that meeting other transvestites reduces the need to dress; from your point of view this will be very encouraging.

Transvestites always want somebody's help in perfecting a better image, and a little lesson on better presentation might be enjoyable. He may want to find out how the other half lives - maybe he would enjoy a little role playing as a busy housewife, and you can have a well deserved rest! Many wives take the chance, and for your partner it can be quite dramatic.

You must allow yourselves a chance to come to terms with it, and enjoy having fun. It is not demanding, as some people think. Two happy people will get more from life than two who cannot accept each other's little faults. It may seem easier to ignore his transvestism, and hope it will go away; but it will not, and you will drive a wedge between yourselves until it leads to a future apart.

Seek out other wives and girlfriends and talk with them. Women are more sympathetic, understanding, and free about communicating their fears and doubts. Men are more concerned with their egos. Nobody is perfect.

He may wish to express his freedom by wearing a skirt, as you do by wearing jeans. Try to understand a little. For him it might be freedom from mental stress. If you give it a try you'll find it a step towards a better relationship.

21 Why do transvestites use female names?

The simple answer is that when he is crossdressed, the transvestite adopts not only female clothes, but the female mannerisms. In company, it would be odd to hear what appears to be a female addressed as "Sid" or "Jim". It is no more than taking the act of dressing a little further; in adopting a female name, the transvestite will feel added femininity. Many names are adaptable between the sexes; for example, Jackie and Jack; Michael and Michelle. In talking and writing, the transvestite will also use the prefix of "She". This is another word which helps to reinforce their feelings of femininity while they are dressed.

Do we not also call our pets, such as cats or dogs, by human names? For instance, we might possibly use such terms as, "Your mummy has a lovely bone for you".

"Mummy?"

22 Even though I accept his transvestism, my partner gets very moody and irritable at times. Why is this?

One aspect of transvestism which seems to be little known is that it is a compulsion created through sexual excitement and secrecy, which can become an almost manic obsessional fixation. Quite a mouthful, but it is simply that in shedding one form of guilt by sharing his secret with you he now has a sense of loss, coupled with a whole new series of doubts and fears.

The loss is that when his transvestism was still secret, each time he dressed was a planned campaign; and each time he "got away with it" once more, his ego was boosted. The moods which he might have suffered in his secretive days through the frustration of his desire to dress were dispelled by your knowing of his transvestism. They have now been replaced by doubts about your acceptance. Are you seeing him as less of a man? Do you really understand, or are you appeasing him so that you may "do your own thing"? Will you seek a lover? Have you got a lover? Do you

want a "real man" to take his place? Is he really being fair to you by remaining your husband?

Transvestites often have no knowledge about themselves apart from what they have gleaned from the very little written material on the subject: from what is often stated as a 'fact' - that they are perverts - to the statement that they are a special type of person who, in dressing as a stereotypical woman, have no sexual feelings for the opposite sex. The former is based largely on 'research' into the subject through interviews with male prostitutes who used crossdressing as part of their stock in trade, and the latter is rubbish which originated from an 'expert' whose opinion was that transvestites were only such if they felt as he did. It is completely wrong to lump all transvestites together at any definitive level.

No woman really feels happy about her partner being a transvestite, and will have fears about the future, but the fact that it is no longer a secret gives both parties a chance to find a level of acceptance. It may be talked about openly and realistically, with both realizing that there is a great deal more to life than a skirt or a pair of trousers. The image of a person presented by the clothes they wear is merely an image for social acceptance, not the full depth of the real person; which can only be gauged from within a close relationship. With discussion, truth, and open affection, together with a measure of mutual understanding, the moods should be dispelled, and a deeper measure of loving relationship reached.

Being Social for the Social Committee

Illusions Social Club has had great success in the past few years by it's Social Committee members staging parties and information nights.

The effort is supreme but the reward is great. Watch this wonderful club grow. Be a lady and help out.

See Empress Michelle VI for details.

Another Success!

The Fourth Annual Girls of Summer event, held August 24 at Moneypennies, showcased the talents of the Girls of Illusions. Fortified by a sumptuous roast beef buffet, the gals quickly got down to business (show business, that is), hosted by the ever popular Natalie, two-time former Empress of the ISCCA.

Among the many gals strutting their stuff that night were Sonya, with a breakthrough performance, lip-sync pioneer Special K, Princess Christine, who demonstrated a novel new way of preventing relationship break-up (Crazy Glue), and our very own Empress Michelle, who capped things off with a nutty little Cher number. One of the best things about the Girls of Summer is the opportunity it gives first-time or infrequent performers to get up on stage. This year it was Teresa making her stage

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The Illusions performers were supplemented by a variety of special guests including ISCCA: Emperor XX Neal, the current Mr. & Ms. Gay Tyler and P.J. (the latter an Illusions member), and Art's puppets, Moonbeam and Arelus. Karla and Mike, undaunted by a minor technical difficulty, even performed live without a microphone (if you don't think this is tough, try it sometime when there's no shower to obscure your flubbed notes!).

Girls of Summer

Empress Michelle topped off the evening with a demonstration of her fire-eating skills and put the resulting over \$30 in tips towards her Children's Wish fundraising drive. After that, it was time for everyone to relax out on the patio and enjoy the fresh air and perfect weather.

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This year's Girls of Summer raised a record amount for the Social Committee Fund, so thank you to everyone who supported the event. A very special thank you also to everyone who helped out, especially master organizer: Empress Michelle, box office gal Jessica, videographer Monica, and sound system coordinator Diane!

THE GIRLS UP NORTH



Well girls, it's been a busy summer for this reporter/social butterfly. Once again I have an article that is plum full of major news and other interesting stuff.

I should start with the most important piece of news. Illusion's home in Edmonton is on the move. We have been having our socials at the GLCCE centre here in the city. We will still meet at GLCCE but GLCCE has now moved! Believe me when I say that the new place is a lot better than the old location. This new place is just a few blocks north of where we had our meetings. GLCCE, and Illusions have moved to #103, 10612 - 124 Street. Among the improvements over the old place are the presence of windows, carpeted floors, no odours, no flooding problems and so on. You get the picture. It really is a big step up from what we had. Come on out to our next social September 12th and see for yourselves.

The summer is a time where you would expect things to slow down for us girls. I am here to tell you that it doesn't have to be that way. For me, August was such a busy month that my head is still spinning! (Please, no comments about my head spinning all the time!!!) In July I had the chance to attend the Stampede BBQ put on by Illusions. I had the opportunity to meet a 'girl' from Washington State who was very impressed with Illusions and wished that there was a club as good in her home state. The weekend was also memorable for Sonya's early morning balcony climbing escapade. (Remember your keys girls; DON'T leave home without them.)

August began with me representing Illusions at a show put on by the ISCCA in Red Deer. Needless to say, a good time was had by all there. Yours truly, along with Karrie and a couple of local people closed down The Other Place. As usual, Doug and Karrie were excellent hosts. The next week was the Great Alberta Campout near Red Deer. That's right girls, camping! Rachel got to spend a couple of glorious warm, sunny days camping in the outdoors along with Roxanne. GALACA had taken over a campsite where two rivers near Joffre converged. The location really was awesome. Any stories that you may have heard about my pigging out wherever there was food are, unfortunately, true. Thankfully, in spite of all I may have eaten, I didn't gain any weight.

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The following weekend was the fabulous "Girls Of Summer". Vikki, Linda and yours truly came down from Edmonton for the event. Fortunately, I arrived early enough that I had the opportunity to go shopping with Dana. What an experience that was. I'm sure that she knew where every second hand clothing store in the city was. Even more fun was her driving, which I'm positive is more fun than any ride you could ever find at the Stampede!

More from the girls on page 24

INTERVIEW WITH A DIFFERENCE

By KAREN

On a beautiful sunny morning earlier this year, having learned from a friend of a job opportunity within an engineering consulting company - albeit, a position for a secretary / receptionist - the placing of a quick telephone call was sufficient to arrange an interview, the lady who set up the time was apparently of the impression that I was arranging it on behalf of a wife or girl friend. At this point it was all systems go as Karen set about preparing for her mid afternoon appointment.

Careful and very exacting detail was necessary for doing the make up, since this would not be as simple as a shopping trip or a routine excursion about town. Anyone who has been through an interview will quickly tell you that the intense scrutiny which the applicants find themselves subject to is somewhat akin to being examined under a microscope. For this very reason the make up had to be absolutely flawless.

Upon arriving at the company's downtown office approximately five minutes early, I was asked to wait in the outer office, having been offered a cup of coffee whilst waiting. After a lapse of about ten minutes, I was courteously ushered into the interviewers office, the lady conducting the interview introduced herself with a semi-formal "Good afternoon Karen, I'm Evelyn." My reply in a soft spoken, but confident voice; "Good afternoon, I'm very glad you could see me on such short notice," where-upon the interview was now in progress. Evelyn gave me a brief history of the company, apparently they were only a mere two months old and had just moved into their new office space the previous week. As interviews go she then asked me what had prompted me to apply for the position, here was the

crucial "Take the Bull by the Horns" moment which I had wondered how I would respond if asked this question. As I confidently explained my frustration of seeing so many employment vacancies being for women, and that this was a reverse of the women's liberation strategies of the Seventies and an attempt to seek equal employment status.

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Evelyn may have been somewhat taken aback, but there certainly was no evidence of it, as she proceeded in a most professional manner. Next followed several questions regarding my familiarity with office equipment, business machines, (fax, copiers, postage meters, etc.) and an appraisal of keyboard/computer skills. Towards the end of the interview she complimented me on having a most subtle, convincing appearance make up wise, and a smart business like choice of clothing which she said would fit very well within their office environment. (I had been wearing a maroon two-piece outfit with matching shoes.)

The interview came to a close after

about twenty minutes, in the concluding comments it was brought to my attention that Evelyn had given full marks for an original approach, her exact words were "You would not look out of place within our office environment, it's just that we were really looking for a bona-fide woman." Somewhat of a disappointment, however I thanked her very much for her time, and in a firmly professional yet ladylike handshake, we concluded the appointment.

In all it was not such an ordeal as one expects in an interview situation. After leaving, there was a feeling of intense elation, such was the rate of adrenaline flow. It had been a learning experience and very personally satisfying, as one travels along the road of furthering the public knowledge of trans-gender issues.

I would stop short of classifying this as a victory, or as accomplishing a major goal, since I did not get the job. However if more of us were willing to take such a gamble it would certainly further our overall objectives along the road to acceptance as genuine people.

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More from the Girls up North

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The atmosphere for the evening at Moneypenny's was terrific with candelabras on every table. The performances by Empress V Teri and Empress VI Michelle were fantastic (eat your heart out Cher). Equally fantastic was the reaction of Miss Devine, a lady friend of Linda's who was at the show. This was her first experience being with crossdressers (at least the first that she was aware of). She didn't want the evening to end and was truly impressed by us girls. When she joined us for breakfast at Sonya's the following morning, Miss Devine was still shaking her head. Sonya, as usual, outdid herself with the breakfast she put on. The breakfast alone would have made our trip down to Calgary worthwhile.

At the annual Fringe theatre event in Edmonton this year, there were two different drag performances. One was called Eyecons, which featured Chris who did seven impersonations ranging from Marilyn Monroe to Madonna. Chris actually did more than the physical impersonation. He did their voices as well! His show was one of the hits of the Fringe. The other show was called "The Edmonton Queen" and was a history of the drag queens in Edmonton. It was another popular show at the Fringe.

A few days after "The Girls of Summer", I had to attend a GLCCE meeting that was held at City Hall in Edmonton. Of course, Rachel had to be there. I tell you it was great being able to walk through the halls as Rachel. I had to take a few photos to record the event because I'm sure that many wouldn't believe me if I told them (especially our understanding mayor).

The next day began the round of shows leading up to the 21st Coronation Ball of the ISCWR in Edmonton. Since I'm a Princess, I felt obligated to attend all the shows where there might be other Royalty in attendance. I ended up partying as Rachel six nights in a row and met people from as far away as Buffalo and Cleveland. At the ball itself, there were even more Illusions girls and friends than there was last year. For the out of town visitors we had Ginger from Dawson Creek, our esteemed Empress VI Michelle and Brenda, and 2nd Princess Christine (Sorry Brett, Sherwood Park doesn't count!) Illusions' room was on the same floor as many of the out of town court members so we had lots of visitors drop by during the day and especially after the ball. (P.S. Thanks to Beth for all the great work in preparing the food for our hospitality suite). All the girls were still partying hearty till almost 5 a.m..

I hope to see even more girls out for our socials in September. We've have Dr. Wernicki coming on September 12th and on the 21st is our first annual Scavenger Hunt. Even if you live out of town, come on down for this event. It promises to be a blast. To quote a petite porky pink actor, "Well, That's all folks!"

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9. Where is that Killer? He should have made bail by now...
8. You're so cute you remind me of Larry "Bud" Melman!
7. Smile! You're on Candid Camera!
6. Sure I'll give you my number. Would you hold this badge while I look for my pen?
5. I'll just nip into the ladies' for a minute to take this penicillin and let's go!
4. I'd love to. I'll arm-wrestle you to see who picks up the cheque.
3. Zoltar! I've got one, beam up two to the Mother Ship!
2. Let's go to my place. My wife should be home from target practice by now and I'm sure she'd love to meet you.
1. Are you glad to see me or is that a Tootsie Roll in your pocket?



QUEEN OF POTATO CHIPS

No one can accuse the makers of Quebec's Yum Yum potato chips of political correctness. Not only has Croustilles Yum Yum retained its 40 year-old logo--an Indian in full head dress--but it has now hired a drag queen to plug its product.

The character Mado Lamotte, a shorter Québécois version of raunchy RuPaul, began chomping on the chips in TV ads last spring. Company officials say the in-your-face campaign has been a huge hit.

So much so that the queen of kitsch, alias Luc Provost, has snagged a three-year contract. Not bad for someone whose audience has until recently consisted mostly of patrons of Montreal's gay bar scene. (Quoted from *The Globe and Mail*, July 26, 1996, p. B7.)

CANADIAN B-BALLERS FALL SHORT

Canada's Olympic women's basketball team fell to the Chinese 61-49 in Atlanta. A major reason was Zheng Haixa, 29, who stands 6 foot 9 inches without heels and weighs 253 pounds. She led an attack that brought the Chinese back from an 11-0 deficit.

Zheng (pronounced Jung), whose name means Sea Dawn, averages 84% on free throws and got 16 rebounds during the game against Canada (Diane Norman, a relatively diminutive 6'0", was Canada's best with nine).

Now if we could have just got Teri on the team... (based on a report in *The Globe and Mail*, July 27, 1996, p. E3)

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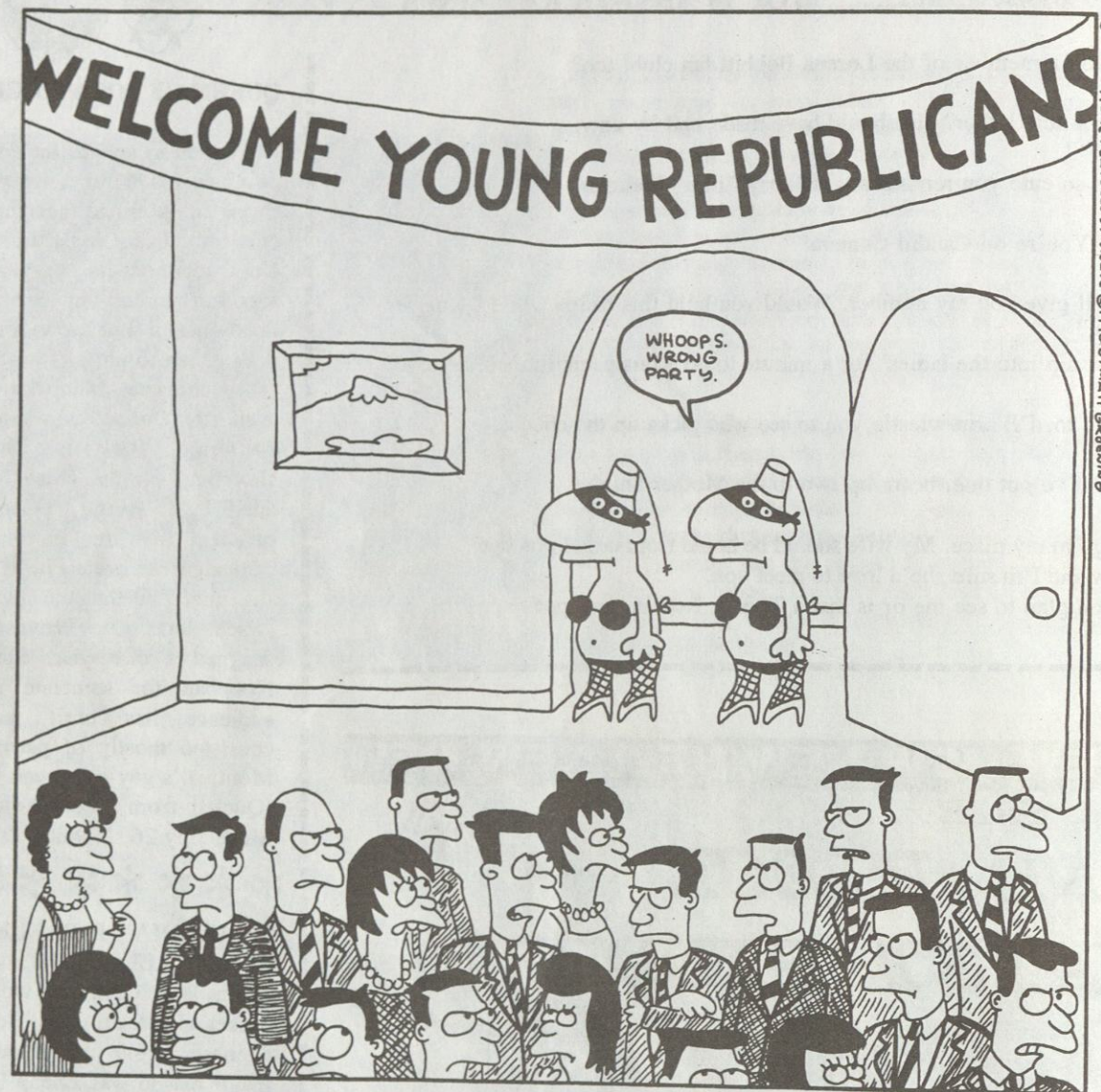
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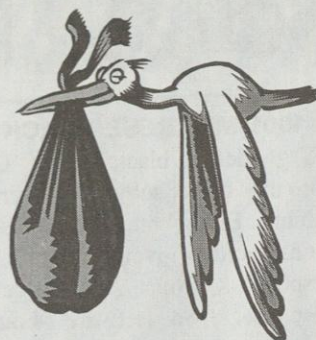
The Personal Directory

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#1009 WENDY Lifelong TV, late 40's wants to meet TV and TS friends in Vancouver area for dress-up, outings and mild B & D. Loves nylons, heels, long nails, dressing like a slut. Answer all. Vancouver, B.C.

#1010 NICK SWM, 28. Seeks an attractive TV or TS friend. Live in Toronto but willing to travel for right person! Send detailed letter and possibly a photo for quick reply. Toronto, Ontario

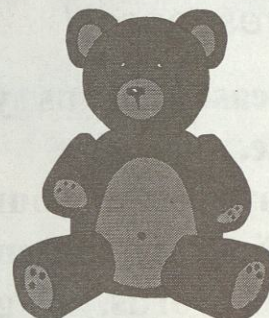
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